

# School Renovation Frequently Asked Questions

## Funding and Financial Matters

- 1. What if I draw interest on the money that I receive for School Renovation funds?** Reimbursement is the preferred method of payment for federal funds. The LEA must minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and the disbursement of those funds. If an LEA requests an advance payment and draws interest on those federal dollars, the LEA will be required to return the interest earned to the U. S. Department of Education.
- 2. *Is there any requirement of local effort or match?*** No
- 3. *Can the grants be amended?*** Yes
- 4. *Is the money retroactive?*** No
- 5. *Has the money been appropriated? Does the state have the money?*** The money has been appropriated to the state and the Department has been given authority to distribute.
- 6. *Will districts be partially funded?*** Not as a rule, but if there are any funds available after the Department has given out funds to the top 123 applications, there might be partial funding for another award.
- 7. *Is DESE trying to only process 123 applications or do we want to have 250 at \$50,000?*** The grant is intended to allow districts to make substantial improvements or repairs that would more than likely cost more than \$100,000.
- 8. *When will the money be coming in to districts? What kind of turn around time?*** Schools may request payment once notified of grant approval. The payment may be requested as frequently as each month, or the district may request one payment when the project is complete. Payment requests received by the last day of the month will be in paid in the next month's school payment.
- 9. *How does DESE define capital outlay for this grant?*** Anything that extends the life of the building. For additional information refer to the "*Missouri Financial Accounting Manual*", Section: Accounting, Subject: Capital Outlay and Accounting for Property, Procedure No: ACT-306.
- 10. *Where did DESE get the district census poverty figures?*** This data comes from the U.S. Census Bureau.

- 11. *Is there any difference in the amount of award between high poverty and rural?*** No, all districts can apply for up to \$100,000 per building.
- 12. *How does the reader know if you are a high poverty or rural school?*** The reader does not know, and that does not figure into the awarding of points for an application. The decision for priority will be made after the readers have scored the grants.
- 13. *Once you fund the 44 high poverty and 13 rural buildings, are the rest of the grants awarded solely on points?*** Yes.
- 14. *If we don't complete the project because we ran out of grant funds, will DESE make us finish with our own money?*** No, DESE will not force a district to use local money, but there will be no other grant funds available to finish the project.
- 15. *Will grant monies not expended be reallocated? Will there be another grant award competition?*** No, all funds not spent by the end of the project will be given back to the U.S. Department of Education. There are currently no plans for additional grants after this project is completed assuming all grant funds are awarded to applicants. There may be another round of applications accepted if there are funds left after the first round is funded. The USDE allows us to extend the timeline if funds are still available.

## **Grant Application**

- 16. *Is there a requirement as far as type size that we must use on the form?***  
10-12 point font size.
- 17. *What count is DESE looking at when it figures free and reduced lunch?***  
The free or reduced lunch count from February 2001 as provided by the districts to Core Data.
- 18. *Why would you get more points if you have a smaller bonded capacity?***  
These points are designed to help districts that have been unable to pass a bond issue.
- 19. *Does the equalized assessed valuation per pupil include railroad and utilities?*** No
- 20. *Do districts list all recent projects on the question about philosophy of maintenance?*** The philosophy of maintenance is an overall general statement on how the district maintains and repairs its facilities.

- 21. In the Ability to Maintain Renovated/Repaired Facilities, do we have to address how we will maintain all the Renovation and Repair projects?** Yes, this is the district's response to how the proposed projects will be maintained.
- 22. On section V, do districts list the age of the building or the year it was built?** The district would put the number of years since the building was constructed, not the year it was built. For example, a building completed in 1963 would be 39 years old as of January 31, 2002.
- 23. Do we put the age of the building when it was started or when it was finished?** The date would be when the original construction was finished.
- 24. If we write a proposal for more than one project in a building, what do you want us to put in date of last repair?** Focus on the part of the project that will cost the most money. For instance, if your district is wanting to put a new roof on a building and also add some windows, and the roofing part of the project accounts for 70 percent of the grant, then use as the date of last repair the date the roof was put on or repaired last.
- 25. If the building was constructed in 1940, and we put air in 10 years ago, what date of last repair do we put in if we want to do windows, roofs, and plumbing?** As long as there have been no replacement or repairs of the windows, roofs or plumbing, the date would be 1940.
- 26. We put air conditioning in our interior rooms two years ago, now we want to put air conditioning in other rooms that have never had air, what date do we put for date of last repair?** As long as the district is not replacing the air conditioning in the interior rooms, the date used for last repair would be the date of the construction of the building.
- 27. Our district had windows installed in 1957, and then later we boxed the window in with wood and insulation. What date of last repair do we use?** The district would have to use the 1957 date if it was planning on removing the boxing and insulation and putting in new windows with the grant funds. But if the district removed the box and insulation with local funds, the district could use the date the original windows were installed as the date of last repair.
- 28. If there are no local codes present, will that hurt a district's chances of receiving the grant?** No. However, if your district is in an area where there are local codes, there would be a deduction of points if you are planning a project that would not bring the building up to local code.
- 29. Which BOCA codes will we be using or want the district to follow?** BOCA codes are examples and districts are not obligated to follow them.

- 30. *The directions say that if we have no codes, we should mark no on the application question, but the application says will this project be implemented in an area where no codes exist. Should we check yes or no if we are in an area with no local codes?*** The directions have been changed on our website. If a district has no local codes, the box to check is yes.
- 31. *Do districts get more points on the application if they make a building handicap accessible compared to putting in roofs or windows?*** No, the readers will not be instructed to score one type of renovation higher than another.
- 32. *If we want to put in new doors, and that means we are addressing ADA, insulation and safety, what box do we check?*** The district would check all that apply. In this case, the district would check off on ADA, insulation, safety and other, then list doors.
- 33. *If architect fees are spent, do they have to be broken out by building?*** Yes, funds will be awarded on a building-by-building basis. Architect fees must be pro-rated.

### **Allowable Activities**

- 34. *We have an old gym that is only used for classrooms (P.E.) Are we eligible?***  
Yes as long as there are no admission fees charged for any events held in the old gym.
- 35. *Would it be a problem to have both the Renovation and Repair grant and the Department of Natural Resource's Energy Conservation Loan?*** No
- 36. *Could we do paving or parking lots?*** As long as it is a repair or renovation and is not new construction, it would be allowable.